

**Remarks/Arguments:**

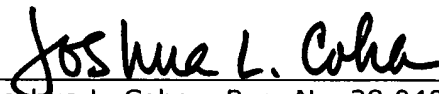
The pending claims are claims 1 and 3-17. Claims 1, 12, 15 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

In paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-14 and 16-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, respectively. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative during telephone interviews on November 6, 2006 during which the § 112 rejections of claims 1 and 12 were discussed. Details of those interview are provided in the Interview Summary dated November 14, 2006.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication in paragraph 4 on page 3 of the Office Action that claims 1, 3-14, 16-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the § 112 rejections. Since claims 1, 12, and 16 have been amended, Applicants request that the § 112 rejection be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 3-17 are now in condition for allowance and they request an early indication of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reply to Office Action of September 1, 2006

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January 24, 2007

Joshua L. Cohen